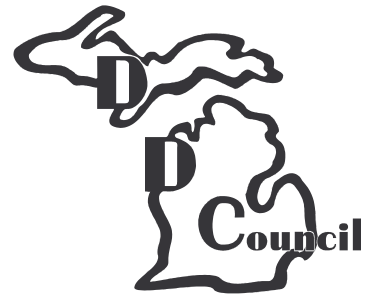
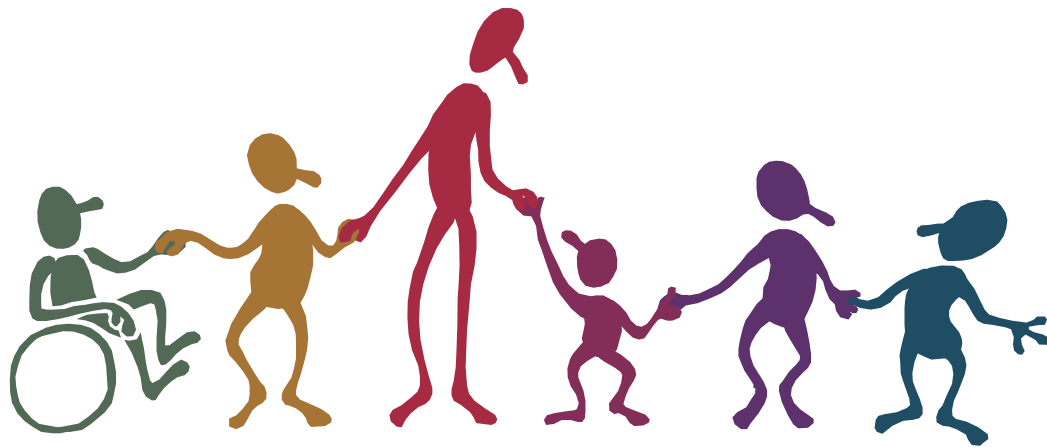


*Michigan
Developmental Disabilities
Council*



*2009 Outstanding Advocates
Awards Program*



“Our Community Includes Everyone”

The Developmental Disabilities Council Outstanding Advocates Awards highlight the contributions of those individuals or groups that have improved the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. Their efforts bring to light the work of the council in the broader community.

The Award Categories

*Help us make the 2009 awards a success by nominating the person, group or RICC you know has done outstanding work in the councils goal areas, **employment, housing, transportation, education, public policy, health and family support.***

*People without disabilities are eligible to be nominated in all categories **except Young Leader.** You **may not** nominate yourself or group for any award. Current Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) staff and council members **are not** eligible for nomination, but are eligible to nominate others.*

Young Leader Award

This award recognizes a young adult with developmental disabilities who demonstrates initiative, talent, determination and achievement. Service must be completed outside of school hours, if nominee is a student.

Eligibility Criteria:

- A person 26 years or younger, at the time of nomination, with a developmental disability.

Questions to be answered in the Nomination

Narrative:

1. How has the nominee achieved success as a role model or leader?
2. Provide examples of specific areas where they achieve success for example, (advocacy, athletics, education, employment).
3. What contributions has the nominee made that have enriched the quality of life for youth with developmental disabilities?

Unsung Advocate Award

This award recognizes a person or group that demonstrates the spirit of the council's mission and goals. It highlights behind the scenes contributions of those that work tirelessly to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Nominees for this award have gone above and beyond in service for people with disabilities, while working outside the scope of any standing committee, workgroup or council grant.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Any individual or group, excluding RICC's.
- Individual RICC members are eligible.
- Current grantee staff members are eligible for work performed outside the scope of the grant.

Questions to be answered in the Nomination

Narrative:

1. Describe the nominee's key advocacy efforts.
2. How have the lives of people with disabilities changed as a result of the nominee's advocacy efforts?
3. What have the nominee's advocacy efforts accomplished? (Such as volunteer hours, number of people served, funds raised, etc.)

Diversity Outreach Award

This award recognizes a person or group who demonstrates success and leadership in outreach and recruitment of people with developmental disabilities from diverse cultures. Nominees for this award should cultivate and promote a more inclusive community for people with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Individual or a group, including RICC's.
- Individual RICC members are eligible.
- Current grantee staff members are eligible for work performed outside the scope of the grant

Questions to be answered in the Nomination

Narrative:

1. Describe the outreach activities the nominee is currently involved in. What population is the effort reaching?
2. Provide examples of how they educate and inform the community about the needs of people with developmental disabilities.
3. Describe the effective community collaboration efforts that have reached unserved and/or underserved groups.

Trailblazer Grantee Award

This award recognizes a Development Disabilities Council (DDC) project that has had significant statewide or local impact. Nominees for this award have blazed a trail for systems change, self-determination and inclusion.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Past and current council grantees within the last 10 years.

The Award Categories

Questions to be answered in the Nomination Narrative:

1. Describe the activities involved in the grant. What populations did the nominee reach?
2. What impact has the grant project had on the developmental disability community?
3. How is the project being sustained? What are the sustainability plans for grants still in progress?

RICC That Makes A Difference

This award recognizes a Regional Interagency Consumer Council (RICC) that has significantly improved the visibility, influence and integration of persons with developmental disabilities. Nominees for this award should demonstrate substantial consumer direction in activities and projects that benefit persons with developmental disabilities. They should incorporate team work and volunteerism in their group structure. The RICC should be a champion in advocating for the rights and responsibilities of people with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Currently an active RICC
- 3 community endorsements (letters of recommendation)

Questions to be answered in the Nomination Narrative:

1. Describe the activities the RICC is currently involved in.
2. How has the community benefited from these activities?
3. Describe the RICC's involvement in community collaboration.
4. Describe how the RICC acts as a resource in the community.
5. What obstacles has the RICC overcome in order to serve others?

Champion Award

This award recognizes an elected official who has worked to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities, by enacting legislation or other policies. Nominees for this award must demonstrate an understanding of the disability movement and the concept of

self-determination. They must exhibit a commitment to the rights of all people with disabilities. They have worked in cooperation with people with developmental disabilities to make systems change a reality.

Eligibility Criteria:

Former/current elected official

Questions to be answered in the Nomination Narrative:

1. Describe the legislation or policies championed by the nominee.
2. What impact did the legislation or policy have on people with developmental disabilities?
3. Explain any collaborations or partnerships the nominee formed with people with developmental disabilities.

Lifetime Service Award

This award recognizes an advocate who has taken his or her volunteer/advocacy service to the highest level-year after year. They have spent a significant part of their life making contributions to policies or programs for people with developmental disabilities. Nominees for this award should be an outstanding leader who has contributed to systems change affecting the Council goal areas.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Individual who has served on two or more council workgroups, committees, task force or other council efforts.
- Current grantee staff members are eligible for work performed outside the scope of the grant.

Questions to be answered in the Nomination Narrative:

1. How many years has the nominee been involved in advocacy?
2. What has been the focus of their efforts?
3. Describe the manner in which the nominee achieved the objectives; such as, legislative testimony, providing training, etc.
4. Explain how the advocacy efforts affected a policy, program or other systemic change.
5. Does the nominee belong to any organizations? What, if any, positions have they held?

The Nomination Process

When completed, a DDC Awards nomination should include:

1. Nomination Checklist

The nomination checklist is included as a guide for nominators to keep track of all the nomination information. The staff will use the checklist to verify the completeness of the packet.

2. Nomination Form

The nomination cover sheet is one page and is included with this nomination package. Please type or print neatly. The cover sheet may be copied.

3. Nomination Narrative

The nomination narrative is used by reviewers when choosing the award winners. It should be no longer than two pages. It should answer all the questions identified with each award category

4. Photograph or Digital Photo

Please include a quality color photo (print) or digital photo of the nominee, preferably involved in service. The photograph will be used in DDC publications. Photos and/or disks will not be returned.

5. Supporting Materials (optional)

Nominators may submit no more than four pages of supporting materials with each nomination packet. This could include letters of support, newspaper articles, photographs, etc.

*All supporting materials must accompany the nomination form. Supporting materials received separately from the nomination packet will not be considered. **Supporting materials will not be returned***

Additional Information

- Only one individual or group may be nominated per form
- Nominators may submit as many nominees as they desire.

Review and Notification Process

- All nominations will go through a review process of the awards sub-committee. The final decisions on award winners will be approved by the Council.
- Both the award winner and the nominator will be notified.

SUBMITTING THE NOMINATIONS PACKET

The nomination packet can be submitted via US Mail or electronically via email. Information sent via US Mail must be postmarked by Friday, December 19, 2008. The packet should include:

1. Nomination Checklist
2. Nomination Form
3. Nomination Description
4. Photo (print) or digital photo
5. Supporting Materials

Submit one (1) unstapled original **for each nominee** to:

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Attn: Awards Committee
1033 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
Or
Sharp@michigan.gov

If you are submitting by e-mail all documents must be electronic, including the supporting materials.

Faxed submissions will not be accepted.

If you have questions or need this information in an alternate form please contact:
Mitzi Allen at sharp@michigan.gov or
517-334-7240